Facilities to Chakma Refugees

2346. SHRI NARAYAN KAR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 110 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd May, 1990 and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Chakma refugees are being denied daily rations :

(b) whether it is also a fact that corruption charges have been made against the camp authorities in distribution of ration etc;. and

(c) if so, whether Government have initiated any enquiry into the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY) : (a) No, Sir. However the distribution of rations to Chakma refugees sometimes gets delayed due to technical and transportation difficulties.

(b) There have been allegations of corruption against the camp officials, contractors and others.

(c) The State Government have initiated enquiries into the allegations of corruption. The District Magistrate and S.D.O's have been asked to exercise greater vigilance in this regard.

Cost of keeping Andaman and Nicobar Islands

2347. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the annual cost of keeping the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands is Rs. 25 crores with negligible returns;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the archipelago's land and mass and its waters are huge that even if one-tenth of it were properly utilised for development, the islands would generate employment and become a paying proposition ;

(c) if so, what are the handicaps in its development ; and

(d) the steps being taken to remove the handicaps ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Government of India has set up a high powered Island Development Authority (IDA) under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister, which includes Ministers of all the concerned Ministries. The objective of Island Development Authority is to decide on policies and programmes for integrated environmentally sound development of the Islands (Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep). A steering Committee under the IDA also works out the implementation strategy for the development of the Islands. The Steering Committee is headed by a member of the Planning Commission. A number of developmental projects/schemes have been taken up for implementation in these island territories under the guidence and directions of the Island Development Authority.

D.T.C. Buses/Stands

2348. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of buses plying between Palika Kendra and Shali

mar Bagh, New Delhi, indicating their route number and frequency thereof;

(b) what are the reasons for not erecting the stands of Route Nos. 16 and 160 at the same spot to facilitate easy catching of buses by commuters bound for Shalimar Bagh ;

(c) the steps taken to bring the stands of Route Nos. 16 and 160 at one spot on Mandir Marg ; and

(d) the steps taken up to increase the frequency of Route No. 16 and to ensure its regular plying ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN); (a) besides one limited stop trip at 8·50 hours from AD Block, Shalimar Bagh for Palika Kendra, following buses are plying between Palika Kendra and Shalimar Bagh :—

Route No.	Destination	No. of buses	Frequency
16	Shalimar Bagh to Palika Kendra and vice-versa	4	30/60 mts.
160	Do.	10	13/26 mts.

(b) and (c) For the convenience of the commuters bound for Shalimar Bagh, the stands/stops at Route No. 16 and 160 have been provided at the same place including the one at Mandir Marg.

(d) The Services of Route No. 16 is adequately catering to the needs of travelling public. The change in frequency is, therefore presently not contemplated.

Post Office facilities to Villages in the country

2349. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the number of villages (State-wise) in the country and in how many villages post offices have been provided (State-wise).

(b) what are the number of village post-offices (state-wise) which are at a distance of more than 2 Kms. from the village stating the programme, if any, formulated by Government to provide postal facilities in these villages ; and

(c) what is the number of village Post Offices (State-wise) where telephone facilities have been provided stating the programme, if any, to provide such facilities in village where these are not available ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) The information is furnished in the annexed Statement I (*see* below) :

(b) In rural areas the type of post office generally sanctioned is extra departmental branch post office. Invariably it is ensured that the person selected as branch Postmaster has a residence suitably located within the village to accommodate the post office. Therefore, the question of village post office being located at a distance of 2 Kms. or more from the village does not arise.

(c) the information is furnished in statement II.